

My First Job

Margaret Purvine



Now: Business owner

Then: Music teacher

Current position: Director of communications for Next Step Solutions, an Edmonds-based business advisory firm that is co-owned with her husband, Dennis.

First job: Instrumental music teacher (in five schools in Michigan, ranging from fourth grade through ninth grade) specializing in stringed instruments.

Pay: \$11,767 a year (1975).

How I got the job: I applied and began working two weeks after finishing my master's degree in music at the University of Michigan. Ultimately, the district ran short of money and the entire music department was laid off at the end of the year, thus ending my music teaching career. To be honest, I was more relieved than sad. To this day, I shudder when I hear "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."

What I learned: That your first choice of career is not a life sentence. You learn from it and move on and learn something else. It's never a waste because some portion of what you did will apply to what you do later.

Want to tell us about your first job? Fax the above information to Gary Dougherty at 206-382-8879 or e-mail business@seattletimes.com
